

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## SODA ASH IN JULY 2002

Natural soda ash production in July was 898,000 metric tons, 7% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 227,000 tons, 4% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in July was 956,000 tons. Although this quantity seems low, it has been verified with the producers. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in June was 489,000 tons,

18% lower than the June 2001 level of 595,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in June 2002 were 329,000 tons and 639 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through June 2002, compared with those of 2001, were as follows: production was 2% lower, imports 82% lower, exports 1% lower, ending stocks 23% lower, and apparent consumption 1% lower.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
2001:			
June	875	306	1,330
July	879	278	987
August	869	221	1,100
September	814	248	1,290
October	880	217	1,430
November	852	162	1,360
December	870	226	1,420
Total (January-July)	6,060	XX	8,770
Year total	10,300	XX	15,400
2002:			
January	856	262	1,430
February	775	245	1,210
March	885	244	1,370
April	829	202	1,300
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
Total	6,000	XX	8,720

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN JUNE 2002 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	61,200	\$6,770	\$111
China	55,100	4,750	86
Canada	40,200	3,210	80
Japan	27,600	3,170	115
Chile	24,500	3,540	145
Indonesia	16,500	2,050	124
Korea, Republic of	14,300	1,670	117
Taiwan	13,200	1,440	109
Argentina	13,000	2,130	164
Thailand	11,200	1,430	127
Other	52,500	6,400	122
Total	329,000	36,600	111

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ July 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total	% of total
Argentina	8,760	--	9,270	27,500	14,400	13,000	72,900	4
Australia	7,020	7,010	9,660	13,200	7,040	--	43,900	2
Belgium	25,000	--	--	35,300	25,000	--	85,300	4
Brazil	25,800	--	25,800	10,000	52,600	--	114,000	6
Canada	42,700	31,700	42,500	38,000	32,600	40,200	228,000	11
Chile	--	20,800	--	19,600	28,500	24,500	93,400	5
China	10,500	6,500	25,000	17,300	9,500	55,100	124,000	6
Colombia	--	11,700	11,500	10,800	10,800	--	44,800	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,000	6,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	4,370	--	--	--	4,370	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	17	(3/)
France	--	7,500	10,000	--	10,000	--	27,500	1
Germany	19	--	--	19	--	--	38	(3/)
Guatemala	--	--	--	5,000	3,500	3,000	11,500	1
Indonesia	21,500	19,000	19,000	23,000	19,000	16,500	118,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	10,100	--	--	10,100	(3/)
Japan	46,800	58,100	32,300	33,600	20,600	27,600	219,000	11
Korea, Republic of	14,000	19,200	12,500	15,200	14,600	14,300	89,800	4
Malaysia	--	5,000	19,900	--	16,000	4,000	44,900	2
Mexico	56,900	39,800	37,300	27,500	50,000	61,200	273,000	13
New Zealand	--	4,970	--	--	7,520	--	12,500	1
Nigeria	--	3,890	--	--	--	--	3,890	(3/)
Panama	--	--	--	1,990	20	--	2,010	(3/)
Peru	--	2,300	--	2,000	3,500	2,000	9,800	(3/)
Philippines	8,700	--	9,000	9,000	--	7,200	33,900	2
Portugal	8,280	--	--	--	--	7,460	15,700	1
Saudi Arabia	--	14,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,000	62,000	3
South Africa	--	--	--	--	6,070	6,070	12,100	1
Spain	5,000	14,100	--	--	--	--	19,100	1
Taiwan	20,000	10,000	10,500	10,200	17,000	13,200	80,900	4
Thailand	11,100	10,200	10,000	11,300	11,200	11,200	65,000	3
Trinidad and Tobago	2,820	--	--	--	--	2,800	5,620	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	7,000	4,000	--	7,000	18,000	1
United Kingdom	--	3	--	--	--	--	3	(3/)
Venezuela	17,100	--	26,100	19,900	9,830	--	73,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	(3/)
Total	332,000	286,000	343,000	357,000	384,000	329,000	2,030,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ July 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/ 2/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)
2001:		
June	2,050	\$262
July	1,270	162
August	1,590	193
September	1,800	239
October	1,350	186
November	788	114
December	474	82
Total (January-June)	26,100	3,090
Year total	33,400	4,060
2002:		
January	746	130
February	436	128
March	875	177
April	1,110	221
May	991	216
June	639	118
Total	4,800	990

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ July 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5  
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
2001:						
June	875,000	2,050	280,000	1,720	--	595,000
July	879,000	1,270	428,000	--	28,400	481,000
August	869,000	1,590	367,000	--	56,700	561,000
September	814,000	1,800	297,000	26,600	--	492,000
October	880,000	1,350	320,000	--	31,000	593,000
November	852,000	788	381,000	--	54,700	527,000
December	870,000	474	250,000	64,000	--	556,000
Total (January-June)	5,180,000	26,100	2,050,000	61,800	--	3,100,000
Year total	10,300,000	33,400	4,090,000	--	18,400	6,300,000
2002:						
January	856,000	746	332,000	35,300	--	490,000
February	775,000	436	286,000	--	16,900	507,000
March	885,000	875	343,000	--	1,010	544,000
April	829,000	1,110	357,000	--	41,300	515,000
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	NA	NA	--	8,580	NA
January-June	5,100,000	4,800	2,030,000	9,520	--	3,070,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.